

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-12 INR-07 NEA-10 NSCE-00
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY
USDEL MC BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR PRIORITY
USDOCOSOUTH PRIORITY
CSCE COLLECTIVE

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BELGRADE FOR USDEL CSCE

E.O. 11652: GDS
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TAGS: CSCE, NATO

SUBJECT: CSCE/CBMS: BELGRADE NATO CBMS CAUCUS
DISCUSSION

REF: (A) STATE 301461, DTG 172007Z DEC 77

(B) USNATO 419, DTG 141320Z JAN 78
(C) 77 USNATO 12920 DTG 211356Z DEC 77
(D) USNATO 461 DTG 161754Z JAN 78

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED US CBMS POSITION (REFTEL A AND PREVIOUS) IN LIGHT OF THE POLADS/CSCE EXPERTS MEETING IN BRUSSELS JANUARY 13 (REFTEL B). THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS BASIC CBMS POLICY GUIDANCE FOR THE LATTER HALF OF THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE ON MAJOR ISSUES IN QUESTION.

2. ALLIED CBMS NEGOTIATING SYNTHESIS: WE CAN CONCUR IN THE CIRCULATION OF THIS PAPER TO ALL CSCE PARTICIPANTS AS A BASIS FOR CBMS NEGOTIATION. TABLING THE SYNTHESIS COULD BE INTERPRETED, HOWEVER, AS ALLIED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT IN SOME FORM ANY OR ALL OF THE INITIATIVES MENTIONED IN IT. DELEGATION SHOULD THEREFORE ENSURE ALLIED AGREEMENT ON TWO ISSUES:

A. AS SUGGESTED BY THE CANADIANS AT THE JANUARY 12 MEETING, THE REFERENCE TO THE SOVIET MANEUVER CEILING INITIATIVE SHOULD BE NON-SPECIFIC TO ENSURE FULL ALLIED FLEXIBILITY IN SUBSEQUENT NEGOTIATIONS.

B. REFERENCE TO A POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF CBMS TO THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN, AS PROPOSED BY THE SOVIETS, SHOULD BE OMITTED. EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS ARE QUIETLY
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EXCHANGING CERTAIN CBM-RELATED INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH AGREEMENTS RESULTING FROM SINAI II ACCORDS. ALSO, UN FORCES AND US MONITORING STATION IN SINAI, PLUS ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN EARLY WARNING STATIONS IN SINAI PERFORM CBM-RELATED FUNCTIONS. FINALLY, PER AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL, EGYPT AND SYRIA, US FLIES PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE MISSIONS PERIODICALLY TO HELP ENSURE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENTS ARE NOT BEING VIOLATED. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE SEE NO REASON FOR SOVIETS TO GET INVOLVED IN CBM ISSUES IN THIS AREA THROUGH CSCE. ALTERNATIVE EXISTS FOR A SOVIET ROLE THROUGH MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS. IF OTHER MEDITERRANEAN STATES HAVE NOT SHOWN INTEREST IN THIS PROPOSAL, THEN ALLIES THEMSELVES SHOULD NOT FLAG IT.

3. SOVIET MANEUVER CEILING INITIATIVE: WE CONTINUE TO PREFER A SIMPLE BUT FAVORABLE REFERENCE TO THE MANEUVER CEILING PRINCIPLE IN THE FINAL DOCUMENT. WE ALSO NOTE MILITARY COMMITTEE FINDING THAT SOVIET PROPOSAL IS

UNACCEPTABLE FROM A PURELY MILITARY POINT OF VIEW (REFTEL D). HOWEVER, IF SOVIETS SHOULD DEMONSTRATE WILLINGNESS

TO DISCUSS CBM CONCESSIONS IN CONCRETE TERMS IN RETURN FOR MANEUVER CEILINGS, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ADDRESS THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH ACCEPTANCE OF A CEILING ON MANEUVER SIZE, SUCH AS SUGGESTED BY THE FRG (PARAGRAPH 1B OF REFTEL B AND REFTEL C) OR THE UK FIRST OPTION (PARAGRAPH 1C OF REFTEL B). (MISSION IS REQUESTED TO SEEK UK ELABORATION OF "EXISTING SCALE" IN UK SECOND OPTION: IN PARTICULAR WHY THIS PHRASE WOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS ALLIED ACCEPTANCE OF A 50-60,000 MANEUVER CEILING).

4. WE CONCUR IN JANUARY 12 CONCLUSIONS ON A POST-BELGRADE CBMS WORKING GROUP, AGGREGATED SMALLER-SCALE MANEUVERS AND MOVEMENTS ACROSS BORDERS CONTAINED IN SECRET

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PARAGRAPHS THREE-FIVE OF REFTEL B.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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